

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07
EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 EB-07 OIC-02 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /127 W
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P 221447Z JUL 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9553

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN, UN

SUBJECT: 63RD ECOSOC: AGENDA ITEM 23 - SUB-ITEM: ASSISTANCE
TO PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

REF: A. STATE 170056; B. GENEVA 6031; C. STATE 168844;
D. GENEVA 5992; E. STATE 167609

1. DRAFT RESOLUTION E/AC.24/L.544 (REFTEL D) ON ASSISTANCE
TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE CAME TO A VOTE IN THE COORDINATION
COMMITTEE JULY 21. US REQUESTED THE VOTE AND IRAQ REQUESTED
THIS TO BE BY ROLL-CALL. THE RESULTS WERE 31-1(US)-11, WITH
11 ABSENCES. THE ABSTENTIONS WERE AUSTRIA, CANADA, DENMARK,
FRANCE, FRG, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY,
PORTUGAL, UK (JAPAN AND GREECE WERE THE ONLY WEO COUNTRIES
TO VOTE "YES.") WE SEE NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE IN THE
ABSENCES, ALL BEING G-77 COUNTRIES.

2. ON PREVIOUS DAY (JULY 20) WE MANAGED WITH CONSIDERQBLE
DIFFICULTY TO GET A FURTHER EXTENSIOON OF THE VOTE TO PERMIT
FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH WASHINGTON. WHEN WE
APPROACHED THE PRINCIPAL CO-SPONSORS PRIOR TO THE OPENING
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OF THE SESSION TO ASK THEIR AGREEMENT, WHILE PROMISING
NOTHING, A LONG BACK-ROOM PALAVER AMONGST THEM RESULTED,
WITH HARD-LINE PARTICIPANTS SUCH AS IRAQ RESISTING THE FINAL
ASSENT.

3. WE KEPT THE ISRAELI OBSERVER INFORMED OF WHAT WE
WERE DOING, INCLUDING ADVANCE WORD OF OUR FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

TO VOTE "NO."

4. AFTER THE VOTE ON JULY 21 THE US MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT, TAKEN FROM REFTEL E; QUOTE. THE UNITED STATES HAS SUPPORTED AND CONTINUES TO SUPPORT ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL BEING OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. OUR LONG-STANDING SUPPORT OF UNWRA TESTIFIES TO THE DEPTH AND SINCERITY OF OUR CONCERN FOR THE PALESTINIANS' HUMANITARIAN NEEDS. LAST YEAR WE VOTED AGAINST RESOLUTION 2026 BECAUSE IT INTRODUCED EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES, AND THE SAME REASON HAS IMPELLED US TO VOTE "NO" ONCE AGAIN. THE QUESTION OF THE POLITICAL INTERESTS AND POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IS CENTRAL TO ANY MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, BUT IT IS A QUESTION ENTIRELY OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF ECOSOC. UNQUOTE.

5. JAPAN SAID IT UNDERSTOOD ASSISTANCE TO PLO BY UN AGENCIES SHOULD BE EXTENDED THROUGH THE SAME CHANNELS AS IN THE CASE OF OTHER NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND SHOULD BE IN COOPERATION WITH THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED.
6. SYRIA SAID IT HAD SUPPORTED THE RESOLUTION SINCE UNWRA RELIEF OF NINE CENTS A DAY (PER PERSON) WAS

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P 221447Z JUL 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9554

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INSUFFICIENT, SO ALL OTHER UN AGENCIES SHOULD CONTRIBUTE AND SHOULD COOPERATE WITH THE PLO. PLO OBSERVER THANKED THOSE SUPPORTING THE RESOLUTION; SAID NO ONE OF

GOOD FAITH COULD DOUBT THE NEEDS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE RESULTING FROM ZIONIST OCCUPATION AND OPPRESSION; STATED PLO WAS THE RECOGNIZED ENTITY CHOSEN BY THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WHO HAVE THEIR OWN DIGNITY; EXPRESSED "PROFOUND DISILLUSIONMENT" OVER THE "NO" VOTE, WHICH WAS "UNJUSTIFIED AND INVALID", AS WELL AS THE ABSTENTIONS; AND HOPED THIS ATTITUDE WOULD CHANGE OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND MONTHS IN UNDERSTANDING OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS AND RIGHTS. IRAQ EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET THAT THE US CHOSE TO STAND ALONE ONCE AGAIN ON THE QUESTION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE (A DELIBERATE MISINTERPRETATION OF OUR POSITION AS EXPLAINED IN OUR STATEMENT); SAID HE HAD HOPED THE REQUEST FOR A DELAY WOULD LEAD TO A MORE POSITIVE POSITION BY THE US AND THOSE WHO ABSTAINED; AND CLAIMED THERE WERE NO EXTRANEOUS POLITICAL ELEMENTS IN THE RESOLUTION.

7. ISRAELI OBSERVER DID NOT SPEAK AFTER THE VOTE,
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BUT HAD SPOKEN ON JULY 19, WHEN THE RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED BY YUGOSLAVIA ON BEHALF OF THE G-77. HE SAID ISRAEL HAD NO OBJECTION TO ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, BUT THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSED ON UN AGENCIES EXCEPT FOR UNRWA WHICH HAD A SPECIAL MANDATE. REFERRING TO ECWA MEMBERS WITH OVER \$11,000 PER CAPITA GNP, HE SAID RESOLUTION SHOULD CALL ON THEM; SUGGESTED THE FIVE ECWA MEMBERS WHO HAVE INVESTED \$88 BILLION ABROAD SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR THE PALESTINIANS; AND STATED PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS HARDLY NEEDED ASSISTANCE. HE OPPOSED THE RESOLUTION'S CALL FOR COOPERATION WITH THE PLO WHOSE SOLE OBJECTIVE WAS THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL. HE DISAGREED WITH INCLUDING THIS QUESTION UNDER ITEM 23. THE IRAQI DELEGATE TRIED TO SILENCE THE ISRAELI ON A POINT OF ORDER. THE PLO OBSERVER IN HIS JULY 19 STATEMENT EXPRESSED SHOCK AT THE ARCHAIC VIEWS OF THE ISRAELI OBSERVER, DEFENDED THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY ARAB STATES AND ASSERTED THE LEGITIMACY OF ASKING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ASSIST.

8. WITH RESPECT TO THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF INCLUDING THIS QUESTION UNDER ITEM 23 ON DECOLONIZATION (REFTELS C AND D), WESTERN DELEGATIONS WHO WERE THINKING OF MENTIONING THIS IN EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE DECIDED AGAINST RAISING THIS ISSUE ON THE FLOOR AND INSTEAD AGREED WITH US TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE SECRETARIAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT ECOSOC PROGRAM OF WORK FOR 1978 VANDEN HEUVEL

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